

1/11/69

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Dear Gary,

I'm using up an old ribbon, because anyone I put in would dry out while I am in N.O. My present schedule will be sometime after this coming Friday, when I have to be in DC. I'll hear from Moo.

Your two letters of the 9th arrived today. First let me tell you, try and persuade you, that your school work must come first, must not in any way be jeopardized. If it means dropping everything, do that. If it means dropping part, stop the appearances. In terms of what you can do to help, I think nothing compares with a Summer at the Archives. That can be invaluable. As soon as it seems possible, I will try and arrange for you to have a place to stay in Washington, so that on those nights you want to work late or go out you will not have the long drive to and from here (which will also save you gas money).

Patsy: check.

Newcomb: My letter to him enclosed.

Thompson: there is reason to believe that (without seeing, which could prove this wrong) the FA film was put together from transparencies. I have seen their transparencies, printed in a sheet, I think two per, and there is neither part of the adjoining frame nor sprocket holes. The proportions would not, normally, permit this. It is possible LIFE built a clue into each copy of the film it made, thus making it possible to pinpoint any leak. Not in Dallas, but thereafter. If the agency did this and if Thompson's stuff was available, they could have anticipated this possibility. Now, do you suppose for one minute that Thompson got his artist into LIFE's vault to make sketches from the original? I don't think he used that source, anyway. Possibly from an original copy, or transparencies made from the original.

I am not in touch - and will not be - with Popkin, about anything. He lifted too much of his book from my work and then clobbered me - including at least one typographical error. His publisher then tried to persuade me to enter suit before publication, in order to promote his book. I would never be able to restrain myself, so I am silent, stay away. I was in San Diego and did not look him up. I presume he was away, for he was not at my appearances of the several little gettogethers the people out there arranged. Also, when the NY Review, and I presume he, know I knew, for I wrote, there were no changes in the later form, on the book, and without my permission, they used my name to promote it.

Joesten's stuff is not worth reading if given free. The film in Canada involved Similas and publication. Not to be available without publication. Dick Vernabei is Dept Classics, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

If Vince has been in touch with N.O. and done the things he told you he would, he has been silent. I have heard nothing from him.

Depends on when Sahl used the stuff if it is hurtful. I knew in advance and was asked not to and didn't.

The Forensic Sciences article suggesting the possibility of a

frangible bullet is one I do not think I have. However, if Wecht does not conjecture, I will be satisfied, for the case against the autopsy is that solid. I have arranged to show him my unpublished autopsy material in advance of his testimony. Will not now be able to Friday, as previously scheduled. On Sibert and O'Neill, if their report can get it, it is better than they would allow themselves to be.

On Walthers-Hughes: not necessarily so. We have only Walthers' word on when she looked. How can she be that precise? Men's figures can be higher than the boxes behind the window. The seeming motion Thompson alleges could, I think, be the distortion from the cheap lens of a panning, inexpensive camera. However, if there are men in the background, that does not hurt; it helps, for the whole point here is to show conspiracy.

Moo not only called me; he got me out of bed New Year's Eve, which did not surprise me. I also am surprised that he called since then.

A copy of my Archives letter, confirming my verbal direction that they use my funds to keep from slowing down your order, is enclosed. I would have liked to have made a larger deposit. I wish some of the big-talking big shots would help pay for the documents they do not help dig out.

Last night Moo told me he expects the Monday decision to be against Shaw and, from something Wegmann or Dymond said, that they will then, again, go to the State Supreme Court. This will result in at least some delay, and I am not against that at this point. It would in some ways be better if the whole thing could be put off until after Mardi Gras. Jim was insane to set the date as he did. They will also be looking for more official evidence. The only thing he mentioned is the rifle. I suggested instead that they seek the original evidence on the various tests and a competent witness to be examined on them. There may be other such items. I should hear by tomorrow night if there is. He amplified what he had said of Gurvich-Sheriden going around interviewing their potential witnesses to say they also had copies of the statements. On this they can and should do something.

Sincerely,